

Amateurs in Action

Recounts of ham radio operators who have used their effort and skills to help others in a time of need



Olympic peninsula emergency averted

Monday 23 May 2022 was a terrific day for Andrew Hoschar K7OWN and a friend to test their new boats out on [Wentworth Lake](#), about thirty or so miles out of their town, [Forks, Washington](#). As they arrived, Andrew's Suzuki Sidekick started making a horrible racket. Checking around, he discovered that the SUV was dangerously low on oil, not even a drop showing on the dipstick.

Andrew knew that if he attempted to return to town, his engine would seize, stranding them in the middle of nowhere. And with absolutely no cell service there, they were stuck. That is, until he remembered that he had brought his HT (handheld transceiver) with him. Andrew called out on a nearby repeater for help.

John Richmond KE7FFX was the first to answer, and Andrew asked John to relay a message to a Heather Lewis, who was taking care of Andrew's son Jacob, and to have Jacob get on the radio. She didn't pick up, so John left a message. After a while, Joe Wright KG7JWW got on and said he was able to get hold of Heather. Eventually, Andrew's son Jacob got on the radio, and Joe answered, *KY7HAM, this is KG7JWW. I believe your dad needs assistance, and requested you contact him on the radio.*

Jacob and Dad were now connected. Andrew told Jacob where the oil was in the shop, and asked him to get hold of his mother, to get hold of neighbor Ted Rasmussen, to deliver the oil to the stranded duo. After a few minutes, Andrew heard the best words he's ever heard in his life, *K7OWN, this is KY7HAM. We have the oil, and we're on our way.* Ted and Jacob drove out

to the lake and saved the day.

While they were waiting, Andrew and his friend proceeded to do what they had originally set out to do: launch and test their boats. His friend was both amazed and a little concerned that Andrew was as calm as he was throughout the ordeal, enough to enjoy the paddle around the lake. *My friend was so impressed by this, that he told me he's going to start studying for his ham license. It's reasons like this, that I'm glad my son and I have these licenses and equipment.*

You can read more about Andrew's near-mishap on [Forks Forum](#).



Andrew Hoschar K7OWN



Jacob Hoschar KY7HAM